try, were there on sufferance, and, if they did not like such terips as the Chinese gave them, had no option but to ask peaceably for modification or to withdraw. That, however, was not the temper of Europeans toward non-Europeans in the nineteenth^century. Criticism of tffe ensuing war was not lacking in Great Britain and America, But it was on the ground that opium was being forced on China. Few challenged the right of an OccidOTtal power to exact better conditions for what was deemed legitimate trade.

On both sides there was incredible ignorance of the other. High Chinese and Manchu officials believed the English to be "foreign devils," and therefore unable to bend their knees. British com tempt and irritation were extreme. Each regarded the other as uncivilized.

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As fyas just been said, the issue was complicated by the traffic in opium. Opium had long been in use in China. As a temporary escape from the monotony and tensions of life, it had much the same appeal as alcoholic beverages have made to some other peoples. Partly because of its deleterious moral and physical effects, and partly because its rapid increase reversed the favorable balance of trade and led to the export of silver, the Chinese court renewed long-standing prohibitions against the importation of the drug. These were violated—through the connivance and venality of Chinese officials—until late in 1838, when Peking, taking alarm, in a spasm for enforcemen %~«ppointed one Lin Tze-hsii as imperial commissioner to stamp out the traffic. Lin arrived at his post in 1839 and acted with vigor. He ordered that all the contraband drug in foreign hands be

surrendered and that foreign merchants give their formal promise no longer to import it. To win acceptance of his demands he virtually imprisoned the entire foreign community in Canton in its own quarters. Slightly more than twenty thousand chests of the drug were, accordingly, handed over and destroyed, and some of the foreigners gave the required bond. The British, aggrieved, withdrew —for a time to Macao, and soon, when ordered out by the Chinese, to the island of Hongkong, then almost uninhabited but commanding an excellent harbor not far from Canton. Further friction followed, and in November, 1839, an armed clash occurred between British and Chinese warships at Hongkong.

The war thus begun was interrupted from time to time by